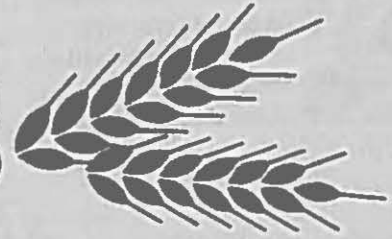


ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus



www.stpaturbana.org

Savor the Treasury of the Triduum

The Triduum is the three days from Holy Thursday evening through Easter Sunday. The days are like a treasure chest in which all the beautiful and holy things of our church are collected and brought out, one by one. Whatever attracts you to the Church, you're sure to find it during the liturgies of these three days.

Are you attracted by a sense of community? Come each night and gather with others who are there to celebrate the days together. Are you attracted by a spirit of service? Let your thoughts linger over the images of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples, his gift of himself on the cross, and the gift of new life that he made possible by his death and rising. Does the vigorous growth of the Church draw you in? Celebrate with our First Communion class on Holy Thursday, and witness the baptism and confir-

mation of new Catholics during the vigil on Saturday night.

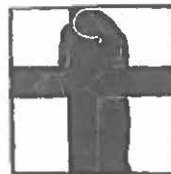
The liturgies each evening begin at 7:30. On Holy Thursday, we celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper. The



outline is similar to Sunday Mass except that we pause to remember the washing of feet and we end with

a procession and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. The warmth of the community always seems to be special that night.

On Good Friday, we celebrate the Veneration of the Cross. After the scripture readings, the cross is brought in and revered by all. We remember the cross as an instrument of death, but also as a thing of glory because



Jesus took it up willingly for us. The liturgy of this night has a quiet, measured pace that gives lots of room for reflection.

On Holy Saturday, we celebrate the liturgy that crowns the Church year, the Easter Vigil. We begin in the dark, lighting a new fire to remind us of Christ, our light. Next is a series of readings and psalms, more than we



have time to savor on a Sunday, leading up to the gospel of Jesus' resurrection. The catechumens and candidates are called forward to join us in our profession of faith, after which they receive baptism and confirmation. And the celebration continues around the Lord's Table.

There is much to treasure and much to savor during these wonderful days!

Take a leaf from the Communion Tree!

What can you remember from your First Communion? Was there someone who helped you to see that you were receiving the Gift that brings us together as one and feeds us with the Living Bread that is Christ? Can you be that person for one of our children this year?



In the next few weeks, there will be a "tree" in the church with the names of our children who are about to receive their First Communion as its leaves. We're invited to take the name of one of the children, to pray for that child, and to give him or her some

remembrance on that day. This could be a card with a note from you, or a small gift. There will be a basket to receive your remembrance on Easter Sunday and the following Sunday, Apr. 23, the day of First Communion at St. Patrick's.

It doesn't matter whether you know the child whose name you take. It does matter that they know the community is praying for them and that even a stranger can help them to come to God. And it matters that all of us in the community care for our children.

Grab your coat and get your hat!

Yes, your hat! Hats may be on their way to becoming a thing of the past, but St. Patrick's Guild invites you to step back in time, put on your finery, and check your closet for your favorite hat to wear to the Guild's High Tea on Saturday, Apr. 22, at 1 p.m. in the parish center.



The featured speaker at the High Tea is "Hat Lady" Gretchen Potter of Champaign. Her delightful program

Continued on next page

Q&A

Q: What is the tall candle that stands in the corner beside the baptismal font? Why is it sometimes lit and other times not?

A: The candle you refer to is usually called the Paschal Candle, sometimes the Easter Candle. It is lighted during all liturgies in the Easter Season, at baptisms, and at funerals. That said, let's look at what it means for us.

Fire has long been a sign of God's presence: the burning

bush on Mount Sinai from which God spoke to Moses and the pillar of fire that accompanied the chosen people in their desert wanderings are just two examples from the Old Testament. The earliest Christians blessed and lighted candles every Saturday night, and by the fifth or sixth century the custom had become associated with celebrations of the Resurrection, and the Paschal Candle had found its way into the liturgy of the Roman Church.

For us today the symbolism of Christ's triumph over the darkness of sin and death is preeminent. It is most apparent when the Paschal Candle is introduced each year to the assembly of the faithful during the Easter Vigil. When the Vigil begins, the church is dark, symbolic of the darkness of the sepulcher that held the crucified Christ. A new fire is kindled and the Paschal candle is lighted, representing the Risen Christ, the Light of the World, and that Light is passed from person to person through the entire assembly and, by extension, throughout the world.

Before the Paschal Candle is lighted, it is inscribed with a cross, an alpha and omega, and the current year—reinforcing the point that Christ is present among us now and throughout eternity. As it is carried in procession into the dark church, the

bearer three times lifts it high, and to the cry "Christ our Light!" all reply "Thanks be to God!" There is no missing the point; Christ is present in the midst of the assembly. We are not pretending to reenact Christ's physical resurrection, or recalling an ancient event when Christ was present. The reality in the message of the resurrection is that the Risen Christ is present here today, with and for us.

Throughout the fifty days of Easter the Paschal Candle traditionally stands near the altar—or beside the ambo (or pulpit), from which the Word is proclaimed—as a symbol of the Resurrection and is lighted for all liturgies celebrated and other gatherings for prayer in the church.

After the celebration of Pentecost, the Paschal Candle is placed near the baptismal font as a visual reminder that it is in baptism that we are crucified and resurrected with Christ. It is lighted at each celebration of baptism, and small baptismal candles are lighted from it for presentation to the baptized or sponsor as a visual reminder of the connection between baptism and Easter.

For funerals, the Paschal Candle is lighted and placed at the head of the casket during the funeral liturgy. In a visual way it proclaims the message of Romans 6:3-5, used at the beginning of the burial liturgy: "In our baptism we have already died and been raised with Christ."

* * * * *

Questions about Catholic practice or Catholic teaching may be sent to the Communications Committee in care of the parish office.



Deadline for submission of information, articles and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is April 9.

Big Dust-up coming at St. Patrick's

On Saturday, Apr. 8, St. Patrick's teens—and, hopefully—adults will tackle dust bunnies and cobwebs in high (and low) corners of the church, wipe down the pews, polish the altar and ambo, remove wax and gum (*ugh*) from the pews, wash windows and glass walls and doors in the church vestibule, polish brass candlesticks, sweep and wash the steps to the church basement, and in general groom the church for Holy Week and Easter.

You are invited to join St. Patrick's "Clean Teens" in this special once-a-year service opportunity. CREW members will be adding to the service hours they need to become eligible for participating in the Mission trip this summer while you, on the other hand, build up service points for eternity!

The Big Dust-up is set to begin after the 8:00 a.m. Mass, so come at about 8:45. All cleaning materials will be provided—you provide the glad effort, the willing heart, and the energy that transforms all. And God's house will shine!

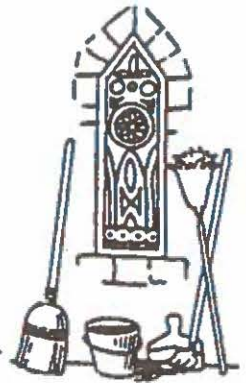
Get Your Hat From Page 1

will spotlight her collection of hats from "throughout the ages."

If you have a special teacup and saucer, you are invited to bring them along to lend a fitting touch to this event. And if you have a special teapot you'd like to see included in a display of teapots, bring it (and a brief history) to the parish office during the week prior to the event.

The program will be preceded by installation of Guild officers.

Reservations for this event are required; watch the parish bulletin for details.



Parish Council election set for Apr. 29-30

The Parish Council's annual election of new members will be held at all Masses the weekend of Apr. 29-30. Any parishioner aged 16 and older is encouraged to vote. This year parishioners will be electing four new council members, each for a three-year term. If you will not be at St.



Patrick's for Mass that weekend, please check with the parish office regarding absentee voting. Those leaving the Council at the conclusion of their term are Tracey Johnson, Cheryl Mitchell, Sam Reese, and Frances Drone-Silvers.

You will soon see a brochure with information about the candidates for

the upcoming election.

Fr. Joe Hogan has told the Council that he sees them as the parish dreamers and visionaries—looking ahead to meet the needs of our parish in the short and long term. Please give prayerful consideration to the candidates, offer a well-informed vote, and ask the Holy Spirit to guide the new and continuing Council members in the coming year.

"Sound of Music" calling Holy Cross alums!

Holy Cross School will be putting on a production of the Rodgers and Hammerstein Broadway classic "The Sound of Music," Apr. 6-9, at the Holy Cross Gymnasium, starring several children from St. Patrick's. Performances will be at 7 o'clock on Thursday through Saturday evenings and at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon. Ticket prices are \$5.00 each for adults, \$3.00 for children over three years old, or \$15.00 per family.

Alumni of Holy Cross School who like to ham it up are invited to appear in a cocktail party scene in the play. All you need are formal party clothes (retro style) and an elegant attitude. No need to memorize any lines! If you are interested, please contact Carla Simmering (328-4841 or cjsimmer@aol.com) or Pat Mayer (384-4860 or mayer701@ameritech.net) and indicate which night(s) you would like to perform.

Reconciliation: we never walk alone

By Frank Modica

Communal reconciliation touches on two themes that have become more central in my spiritual life, being accountable for my actions and taking responsibility for my choices.

I know that I make choices every day as a parent, a teacher, a friend, and a member of this parish that often separate me from God's grace. Yet I often find it amazingly easy to evade responsibility for my choices and the consequences of my actions. Because of distractions such as the Internet and television, I pull back from the community. I also rationalize that my actions ultimately affect only me. And I can always confess my sins directly to God—why use an intermediary?



Communal reconciliation reminds me that I am not an island, even when I'm sitting home alone in front of the computer monitor or television screen, or when I'm plugged into an iPod. In these services I experience a

vertical dimension relating directly to God, and a horizontal dimension that touches on all the people who directly and indirectly intersect with my life.

When I've participated in communal reconciliation, I see some people I know and many others who are strangers to me. But we are still brothers and sisters in Christ. Together we pray, sing, and listen to scripture, and then we have an opportunity for individual reconciliation.

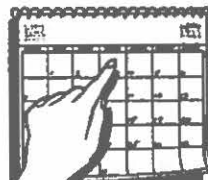
On this occasion we have gathered both as individuals and as a community to be reconciled with God and with one another, in recognition that no one of us is an island.

* * * * *

Communal reconciliation will be celebrated at Holy Cross on Apr. 3, at St. Patrick's on Apr. 4, and at St. Matthew's on Apr. 5. Priests from the area churches will participate in each of these services, all of which begin at 7 p.m.

April "Specials"

- Apr. 3: Communal Reconciliation, Holy Cross, 7 p.m.
- Apr. 4: Communal Reconciliation, St. Patrick's, 7 p.m.
- Apr. 5: Communal Reconciliation, St. Matthew's, 7 p.m.
- Apr. 7: Stations, 5:15 p.m.; Fish Fry, 5:30 p.m.; Film (*Le Fils*), 6:30 p.m.
- Apr. 8: Church Spring Cleaning, 8:45 a.m.
- Apr. 13: Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7:30 p.m.
- Apr. 14: Good Friday, Veneration of the Cross, 7:30 p.m.
- Apr. 15: Easter Vigil, 7:30 p.m.
- Apr. 16: Easter
- Apr. 19: Video ("Affluenza," Part One), 7 p.m.
- Apr. 22: Guild's High Tea, 1 p.m.
- Apr. 27: Video ("Affluenza," Part Two), 7 p.m.
- Apr. 30: CPR Class, 2-6 p.m.



Are you getting the most out of Mass?

David Philippart, in "Seven Habits of Highly Effective Mass-Goers," lists seven steps that let the Mass do its work on us. The fifth step, he says, is to "give it up!"

When we come to the heart of the Mass—the great prayer of thanks and praise—put your heart into it. After you've put your donation into the collection basket, take a moment to think about all the things you are most thankful for right now. As you watch the gifts of bread and wine being placed on the altar, remember that you put yourself along with that bread and wine when you first came in. Know that you (we) are being offered to God under the signs of bread and wine.

Here's the miracle. The God who created the heavens and the earth and everything in them, the God who wove the night sky and buttoned it with stars—the living God—accepts our gift of self under the sign of bread and wine. Then God changes those gifts into the Body and the Blood of his beloved son Jesus Christ and gives it back to us.

It's easy to "tune out" during the long Eucharistic Prayer. Don't do it! Don't miss out on the divine gift ex-

change. Especially important are our acclamations that are part of this prayer: the Holy, Holy; the Memorial Acclamation; and the Great Amen. Sing them from your heart, and remember that in doing so we are



joining in the singing of the angels and saints before God's throne.

When we pray the Lord's Prayer together, it's easy to recite it from memory without thinking much about it. Our bodies can help keep our minds centered on the meaning of this beautiful prayer. We sometimes lose sight of the fact that we are standing in the *orans* position, that is, with our arms extended, hands open, fingers relaxed, eyes raised to heaven—even when modified somewhat by holding hands with

those beside us. This is an ancient prayer gesture that the priest still uses in the Mass today, but it is not a priests-only gesture, it belongs to all Christians.

The kiss of peace follows. Although in our country we have changed the kiss to a handshake, there's nothing "how do you do" about this gesture. When we wish peace to each other, we are imparting to each other the blessing of Christ's peace. Because it is a symbolic gesture, you needn't reach out to everybody, but do make a point of looking the other person in the eye when exchanging this sign of Christ's peace. If you don't

embrace, then clasp—but don't shake—hands with others around you. You might hold the other person's hand in both of yours as you wish him or her peace. Christ's peace will permeate all!

The sixth step in getting the most out of the Mass, Philippart says, is to "sing, walk, eat, drink." What does he mean by that? Find out in the next issue of *In Focus*.

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in our parish library

The parish library has received several donations recently. Have a look at these items on the new books bookshelf, to your left (east wall) when you walk into the library.

Psalm 23: The Song of a Passionate Heart; Hope and Rest from the Shepherd, by David Roper (223 ROP). In an era of constant busyness and anxiety, Roper urges us to find contentment and peace with our Shepherd. He examines each verse of the familiar psalm and offers historical background and practical ways to achieve this end.

Peace of Soul, by Fulton J. Sheen (230 SHE). Sheen says that "there can be no world peace unless there is soul peace." Through this book he offers

wisdom on finding peace, serenity, and joy.

Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith, by Kathleen Norris (230 NOR). Returning to the Christian Church after 20 years, Norris discovered that the language of the Church challenged her: salvation, incarnation, perfection, creeds, etc. Over time she "rebuilt" her religious vocabulary, and she considers this book her "coming out" as a Christian. If you have had trouble with the words of faith, her reflections on these terms may give you a different perspective on faith in the contemporary world.

Prayer for Vocations



Merciful Father, the celebration of the Easter mysteries renews our hope in the new life you offer. May we experience anew the reconciliation gained through the death and resurrection of Jesus, and send us forth as confident witnesses. Give us faithful servants, ordained and lay, who will teach, sanctify, and lead us. Amen.

Another way to celebrate Easter

In the early centuries of the Church, if you were one of the few people who were able to travel, you would have found the Mass celebrated differently in each diocese. There were no standard books containing the prayers of the Mass. Each bishop saw to it that the liturgy was conducted with good order and teaching, but not necessarily with the same prayers and actions. Over time, the best practices of the more influential dioceses gained respect. As the Bishop of Rome grew in authority, the liturgical practice of Rome spread across most of the world.

Even today, however, there are Catholics who celebrate the Mass using different patterns of prayers and ceremonies than the ones

we know. Our liturgy is called the Latin Rite (no matter what language it is celebrated in), but in Milan, Italy, for example, you might encounter the Liturgy of St. Ambrose. In Spain, you might encounter the Mozarabic Rite. Another liturgy is the Byzantine Rite. Some people who practice the Byzantine Rite are in communion with the Roman Catholic Church and some are not; those who are part of the Roman Catholic Church are called Byzantine Catholics.

Byzantine Catholics have their own bishops and dioceses, but they are part of the Roman Catholic Church and they accept the authority of the Pope. They can receive Communion at our liturgies, and we at theirs.

A Byzantine Catholic Mass will be celebrated—in English—at 7 p.m. on Apr. 25 at St. John's Catholic Chapel

on campus. All are welcome to participate and, if they wish, to receive Communion. In a Byzantine church, the sanctuary is separated from the rest of the building by a screen, called the "iconostas," which reaches up to the ceiling. During the "Divine Liturgy," as it is called, doors in the screen are opened through which some of the liturgical action can be glimpsed, but the prayers and chants can always be heard.

The general outline of the Divine Liturgy will be familiar to you, but there are many small differences of custom. When you make the sign of the cross, you will touch your right shoulder before the left because Jesus sits at the right hand of

the Father; the thumb and two fingers are held together as a reminder of the Trinity, and the other two fingers are held against the palm as a reminder of Jesus' divine and human nature. When you go to receive Communion, you will tell the priest your name and he will say, "Servant of God, <name>, receives the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins." You tilt your head back and open your mouth; he will use a spoon to place the sacred bread dipped in wine on your tongue.

Many of us found an experience of the worldwide Church last spring in the death of Pope John Paul II and the selection of his successor, Pope Benedict XVI. Here is another way to experience the breadth of the Church, by celebrating with our brothers and sisters of the Byzantine Rite.



This iconostas (literally, a stand of icons) is in St. Stephen Byzantine Catholic Church, Allen Park, Mich.



Welcome to new parishioners

Michael Arnold, Rosalie Bell, Ken and Laura Christensen, Rexel John Fabe, Suzannah Hershey, Bob Kacich, Julius Manalang, Alger Penas, Maggi Rimel, and Amber and Mike Rhoton.

Farewell to these parishioners, who have moved from C-U: Linda Aarons, Frank and Ruth Brenner, and Berniece Goldsby.

Congratulations to Margaret Kearns and Robert Hogan, recently married at St. Patrick's.

Welcome to the following, recently baptized into our faith community: Kate Eileen Thomas, Lin Rose Gilbertz, Kahlil Frank DeCerbo, Addisyn Kae Swope, Parker Matthew Schroeder, and Paula Gabriela Pessin Sardela.

Please pray for deceased parishioners Anna Catanzaro, Anne Shumate, and Veronica McCann.

Also remember in your prayers the very many seriously and chronically ill members of our parish, whom the "Privacy Act" prevents us from naming here.

Blessed are the peacemakers!

One of the summer issues of *In Focus* will highlight the efforts of parishioners who work for peace and justice. We need your help! Please tell us about parishioners you know who are active in this field. Contact Frances Drone-Silvers (398-1458, francesds@yahoo.com) or Cathy Salika (367-7861, csalika@uillinois.edu), or drop a note in the Communications Committee mailbox at the parish center. Thank you!



Holy Cross Happenings

Informational Meeting: On Sunday, Apr. 2, at 11:30 a.m., there will be an informational meeting regarding Holy Cross School with the principal, teachers, and parents. In this informal setting you may ask any questions you have about sending your children to Holy Cross School.

New Writer Needed: In August, a new person is needed to write the *In Focus* feature "Holy Cross Happenings." This is a great way to learn more about Holy Cross; it is very easy to get the information, and the time commitment is minimal. If interested, please contact Cheryl Mitchell (355-4566 or cheryl@egix.net).

Second Quarter Honor Roll: The following students from St. Patrick's made the honor roll for the second quarter. *Highest Honors:* Claire Drone-Silvers, Gracie Mayer, and Andy Wszalek; *High Honors:* Sarah Johnson, Will Justice, Theresa Welle, Luke Cottingham, Cora Freidhof, Kaleigh Niccum, Shelby Simmering,

and Caitlin Schutz; *Honors:* Peter Kim, Matthew Tate, Dana Williams, and Matthew Melander. Congratulations on your hard work!

Math Counts: The Math Counts Team placed fifth of ten teams in the regional competition on Feb. 11. St. Patrick's was represented by team members Andy Wszalek and alternate Claire Drone-Silvers.

Word Power Challenge: Claire Drone-Silvers qualified to compete at the state level of the *Reader's Digest Word Power Challenge*. In order to achieve this, students had to win an in-school competition, take a written test, and score high enough to become one of the top 100 students in Illinois. *Congratulations, Claire!* Other participants included Annie Rasmussen, Doug Mitchell, Ian Niccum (fourth-grade finalist), Sarah Johnson, Will Justice, Breanna Wickert, Theresa Welle (fifth-grade finalist), Matthew Tate (sixth-grade winner), Gracie Mayer, Nick Thomp-

son, and Andy Wszalek.

Diocesan Scouts: Several Holy Cross students were awarded religious medals and emblems at the 2006 Diocesan Scout Mass in Peoria on Feb. 19. *I Live My Faith Medal:* Mariya Sturdyvin, Jamie Simmering, Elizabeth Fahey, and Annie Rasmussen. *Marian Medal:* Kaleigh Niccum. *Parvuli Dei Emblem:* Bart Basi, Chase Kangas, and Cole Kangas. *Congratulations!*

Totally Lent: During Lent, each class or grade at Holy Cross does a special project for the Lenten season.

First-graders are focused on prayer, sacrifice, good habits, and collecting money for St. John's School in Gulfport, Miss.

Second-graders will have a bake sale on Apr. 4, with all proceeds donated to the Humane Society.

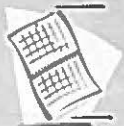
Third-graders are having a book drive; books collected will be sent to the Sister Parish in St. Isaac Jogues, S. Dak. They will also have a food drive for the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Fifth-graders will have a used book sale on Apr. 4; the proceeds will be sent to Gulfport, Miss., to help the school that was devastated by the Hurricane Katrina.

Sixth-graders will hold their annual raffle of wonderful Easter baskets on Holy Thursday, Apr. 13, with the proceeds going to the Gulfport, Miss., School.

Seventh-graders will collect donations for Crisis Nursery, A Woman's Place, and Center for Women in Transition. These important organizations survive on donations from others.

Eighth-graders are making coloring books that will be taken to the children's ward in local hospitals.



Mark your calendars

- Mar. 27:** School resumes
- Mar. 29:** Scholastic Bowl; Reconciliation for grades 2-8, 9:15 a.m.
- Mar. 30:** First-graders to Krannert
- Mar. 31:** Mass, 8:15 a.m.; report cards distributed; fifth-graders to Carle Arbours and Circle of Friends
- Apr. 3:** Third grade: Kids in Chemistry
- Apr. 4:** Scholastic Bowl
- Apr. 5:** Box top collection
- Apr. 6-9:** School play, "Sound of Music"
- Apr. 7:** Mass, 8:15 a.m.; kindergartners to Anita Purves
- Apr. 11:** Scholastic Bowl; fourth-graders to Springfield
- Apr. 13:** Scholastic Bowl
- Apr. 14, 17:** No school
- Apr. 19:** Kindergartners to Anita Purves
- Apr. 20:** Monthly Packet; sixth-graders (Crull) to Challenger
- Apr. 21:** Mass, 8:15 a.m.; mid-quarter, grades 5-7
- Apr. 24-28:** Eighth-graders to Washington, D.C.
- Apr. 25:** Seventh-graders to Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago
- Apr. 28:** Mass, 8:15 a.m.; fifth-graders to Carle Arbours and Circle of Friends; early dismissal (teacher in-service)

Life-saving equipment purchased

A year and a half after St. Patrick's parish nurses first presented the concept of purchasing Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) for use at St. Patrick's, they are seeing their efforts bear results. Two AEDs will be purchased for the parish. One will be located on the north wall of the parish center's main hall; the other, on the east wall in the rear of the church by the fire extinguisher near the vesting sacristy. The purchase of this equipment, valued at approximately \$4,200, was funded by St. Patrick's Guild, the Knights of Columbus, and an anonymous donor.

The process leading to this achievement was no simple task for the parish nurses. In addition to gaining approval for acquiring the equipment, they arranged for support from Carle Foundation Hospital, a local Community Training Center, which will provide physician monitoring and care of the AEDs, and they then had to educate volunteers how to use it.



Although the equipment is very easy and safe to use, parishioners had to be trained in its use and also educated in Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), which is often needed when an AED is needed. So the parish nurses provided several CPR classes to ensure that an adequate number of parishioners would be trained to provide CPR and use the AEDs should the need arise. They can proudly point to the fact that St. Patrick's now has over forty certified CPR providers and five CPR instructors, with additional CPR classes scheduled in the coming months.

Parishioners can be grateful to the parish nurses for their foresight and perseverance, and for the many hours spent researching, documenting, presenting, and educating us in the need for AEDs and how to use them. It's probably only when the first parishioner needs this life-saving help that we will truly appreciate what they've done for us all.

Scott Shannon wins recruiting award

In Bloomington for a Knights of Columbus function on Mar. 11, parishioner Scott Shannon was astonished to hear his name announced as winner of the award given to the top recruiter of the year.

Scott was flabbergasted: "Omigosh!" he exclaimed.

The function at which the award was announced was the K of C Fourth Degree Exemplification, the process by which men become Fourth Degree Knights. Scott had sponsored nine men, including three priests, for induction at this function, held at the Chateau Hotel.

How does Scott do it? Well, here's a clue: "If anyone wishes to join the Knights of Columbus, please contact me at 419-1770. I can tell you more about the Knights, and about the Fourth Degree exemplification as well."



Master Jim De Runtz (right) presents the top-recruiter award to Scott Shannon during the Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Exemplification in Bloomington.

Schedule of Parish Nurse Activities, 2006

Blood Pressure Screening:
Apr. 23, May 21, Jun. 25, Jul. 23,
Aug. 27, Sept. 10, Dec. 10

CPR Classes:
Apr. 30, 2-6 p.m.;
Sept. 12, 6-9:30 p.m.

Annual Health Fair:
Oct. 22, 8:30 a.m.-noon

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH In Focus

St. Patrick's Parish In Focus is published on the last weekend of the month in Urbana, Illinois. News items and information may be submitted by mid-month for the next issue. Written materials must include the name and telephone number of the writer.

Please leave news items in the Communications Committee mailbox in the parish center, or call a committee member. All submissions are subject to review and/or editing by the committee and staff. By-lines are generally omitted.

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Articles and information for this issue were provided by Melody Billman, Jan Callahan, Suzanne D'Andria, Frances Drone-Silvers, Judy Fierke, Quentin Kirk, Peggy Loftus, Mary Lou Menches, Cheryl Mitchell, Frank Modica, Sharon Monday-Dorsey, Ellen Noonan, Nancy Olson, Peggy Pennacchi, Marty and Nathaniel Perry, Cathy Salika, Peggy Whelan, and Leo Wood. This issue was edited by John Towns and paged by John Colombo.

The Candle Re-lighter

I showed the Canadian lady how each morning
as I pass the great Cathedral of Oaxaca,
begun in 1530 A.D.,
how I go in and relight all candles
that have gone out overnight.

I showed her how I tip each canister sideways
touch the dead wick like a black burnt insect
with a lighter candle,
until it remembers fire.

How I move among the burning suns
careful not to ignite my sleeve or singe my watch
delivering life from the living to the dead
until the alcove is warm with ascending prayers,
and bright with hope.

Tourists assumed I work for the church
and asked me questions
in languages from the other side of the earth
but I understood and I nodded toward the source of new candles
or toward the tiny mouth where their coins could go.

I helped an old Indian woman with her candle.
We had no language and little culture in common,
strong dark hands,
We fumbled with her small cheap candle
but we succeeded and she thanked me in a pre-Columbian word.

The collectivity of hundreds of candles makes a tiny sound,
a quiet static as from an old radio,
and I silently hoped pilgrims
would re-light other candles
before adding their own.

We wondered, the Canadian lady and I:
why do candles go out?
I think there is a candle-putter-outer, a guy who
resembles me exactly except whites of his eyes are black
and pupils of his eyes are white.
His goal is to silence the earth.

We stood back and admired our sea of fire,
our choir of prayers,
and we did not know if they are answered
or if anyone is listening but we have done our part
and she asked me: "When are you leaving for home?"
"Thursday," I said.
"I will take your place when you are gone." She said.

—New and unpublished poem by parishioner *Quentin Kirk*



Vacation Bible School a week-long adventure

Something "new again" will be offered this summer at St. Patrick's. Remember the Religious Education program called "Summer Days Together" that was overseen by parishioner Karen Kimmey in the 1980s? This year St. Patrick's is introducing a new summertime program for youngsters, Vacation Bible School, during the last week of June (June 26-30).

The program, produced by Gospel Light and Liguori Press and carrying an imprimatur, has as its theme "SonTreasure Island." The week's adventure will resemble a treasure hunt on a Caribbean island, with youngsters searching for the treasure of God's love and gifts.

Children in preschool through third grade are invited to participate in the program, and older children are invited to help teach and work with the younger ones. Each day will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the church, with prayer, singing, and skits related to the day's theme. Then all will travel from classroom to classroom, where they hear Bible stories, learn songs, make crafts, play Bible games, and enjoy a snack. There will also be a collection each day for a charitable cause (not yet chosen).

The one-week adventure offers fun and community building for everyone. Help is needed for organizing the arts and crafts, acting out skits, handling registration and check-in, teaching Bible stories, preparing and serving snacks, leading "tours" from station to station, decorating the hall, recording the week in photographs and on video—and more. A complete list of volunteer opportunities and sign-up sheets, together with a wish list of supplies needed, will be posted on the Religious Education bulletin board in the main hall.

Watch for more information in the weekly bulletin and on the Religious Education bulletin board, or call Children's Program Coordinator, Suzanne D'Andrea (344-0398). Your prayers and volunteer support in this summertime adventure will be greatly appreciated!

Drivers needed!

For many people the process of aging is one that includes many losses. There is often the loss of a loved one or partner to deal with. Sometimes a hearing or vision loss accompanies growing older. And for many—including some “not so old”—there is the dreaded memory loss! But perhaps one of the hardest things to lose is the independence that is lost when a person can no longer drive.



Fortunately, there are people in our community who want to help our older citizens by being transportation volunteers for Faith in Action, Good Samaritans, or the Senior Resource Center at Family Service. Some of these same volunteers help deliver Meals on Wheels. Unfortunately, the need greatly exceeds the number of volunteers available at this time.

Please take a moment to consider this very worthwhile volunteer activity. You need only commit when you are able, there is no minimum number of hours required. Every hour you can give means another senior citizen has a safe and dependable ride to the doctor, dentist, bank, or grocery store. Every hour you can give means one less “I’m sorry, no one is available” that has to be spoken.

To volunteer, please call Martha Paap or Mary Mathis at Faith in Action (337-4700), Donna or John Rinkenberger of Good Samaritans (344-0750), or Brandy Sprout at Family Service Senior Resource Center (352-5100). By offering to do something you probably do every day—driving your car—you can make a huge difference in the life of an older resident of Champaign or Urbana!

Volunteer opportunities

Play Bingo with grandmas and grandpas this summer. Residents of a local area nursing home enjoy playing Bingo with students, who tend to disappear once classes are out for the summer. Individuals and groups are welcome, for as much time as you choose to give, May through August. Sign up now and choose Wednesdays, 6:45-8 p.m., and/or Saturdays, 2:15-3:15 p.m. *Council of Congregations: Peggy Whelan, 367-3668*

New Holy Cross correspondent needed: Beginning next fall, *In Focus* will need a new volunteer to prepare “Holy Cross Happenings.” It’s very easy to get the information, and the time commitment is minimal. *Communications: Cheryl Mitchell, 355-4566 or cheryl@egix.net*

Designers and creative thinkers, please apply! The Liturgical Art Team is looking for parishioners with a creative bent to provide designs or suggestions for visual effects in the church that will enhance our worship experience. Designs can be implemented by others if need be. *Liturgical Art Team: Jan Callahan, 469-9346*

We’ve lost our Council correspondent! With the resignation of

the Parish Council’s former recording secretary, *In Focus* has been unable to gather timely information about the concerns, discussions, and plans of Council members at their monthly meetings to share with our readers. Can you help? *Communications: Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125*

Help decorate St. Patrick’s church for Easter. On the Saturday before Easter, starting at 10:30 a.m., help is needed to mount banners and floral pieces in the sanctuary, nave, and vestibule. Parishioners un-daunted by tall ladders especially welcome! *Liturgical Art Team: Jan Callahan, 469-9346*



Parish groups are invited to submit entries for this column to the Communications Committee or by calling Peggy Whelan (367-3668). Provide your name and telephone number or e-mail address and the name of your group.

Quick fixin’s from the kitchen of...

Peggy Loftus

Shipwreck

- 1 lb ground beef
- 3 medium potatoes, sliced
- 1 large or 2 small onions, sliced and separated into rings
- 1 can red kidney beans
- 1 can tomato soup



Place the meat in the bottom of a 2-quart casserole dish. Add a layer of potatoes, next a layer of onions, and then a layer of beans. Cover with the tomato soup. Bake, covered, at 350 degrees for 1 hour and 15 minutes. Uncover and continue baking (to brown) for 30 minutes.

Work on the new food pantry moving at a fast pace

With many skilled hands, the SVDP food pantry is fast becoming a reality. Among those who helped mount new wall covering on a recent Saturday morning were Tim Brenner, Mark Cousert, Pat Dill, Bob Kacich, Kai Nielsen, Dave Palmisano, Randy Pankau, Chuck Shaw, and Gary Wszalek. It's not as easy as it looks!



Education throws a Mardi Gras party



Going once, going twice, ...

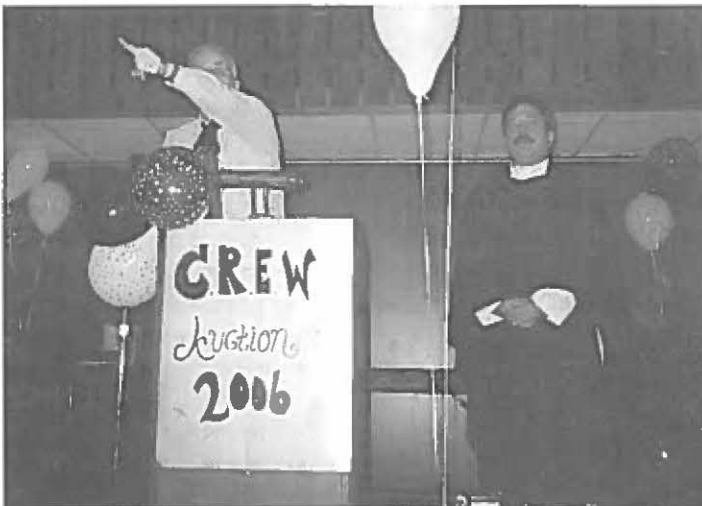
Bidding at CREW's Talent and Service Auction was lively during both sessions on Sunday, Mar. 5, netting the group more than \$4200 from generous parishioners in support of this summer's Mission Trip.



From the left: CREW's Micah Cottingham, Nathaniel Perry, Grant Cinker, and Robie Kimmey handed out bid paddles and kept careful records of the final bids and bidders.



Joe Mahoney (left) and wife Jeanne Connell successfully outbid many others who would have been happy to take home Chuck Shaw's hand-sculpted bear and porpoise. Chuck's winning sculptures drew the highest bids of the auction, and deservedly so.



Fr. Joe Hogan came to the auction between Masses to remind bidders that dinner with the pastor will be prepared by "an anonymous parishioner," presumably an excellent cook, to the benefit of the Mission Trip.



Half-dozen batches of cream puffs (one batch is presented here by Anna Mayer) prepared by Sophia Zeigler herself made four bidders very happy indeed!



Two lucky couples will enjoy an authentic German dinner prepared by chef Catherine Keane in her home, adding substantially to the funding for CREW's Mission Trip with the help of auctioneer Tom Kacich.

Faith and Films Series 2006: *Become Disciples!*

The Faith and Films series continues on the Fridays of Lent in St. Patrick's multipurpose room at 6:30 p.m. Come for dinner (Knights of Columbus Fish Fry, 5:30 p.m.) and a movie. Each showing will include an introduction, a viewing of the film, and a short discussion afterward. Dessert and refreshments will be available during the film and the following discussion.

The remaining films in the series are:

Mar. 31: *Ponette* (1996 - Not rated in USA). Sent to live with her relatives, Ponette experiences the hopes, dreams, and fears of a child after the loss of a parent. Ultimately, her faith, love, and strength of character allow her to be at peace with her mother's death.

Like Ponette, we often struggle to understand the boundlessness of God's love for us. (Winner of 9 awards and 3 nominations)



Apr. 7: *Le Fils (The Son)* (2002 - Not rated in USA) is a story that challenges our understanding of the limits of forgiveness. Olivier, a carpentry instructor at a vocational training center for troubled boys, has his

world turned upside down with the arrival of a new student, Francis. Unknown to Francis, a past tragedy involving Olivier's son provides a connection between the teacher and his new student. In the Gospel for this Sunday, Jesus challenges to us to face our betrayal of him in the light of his unconditional love. (Winner of 8 awards and 7 nominations)

"Flowers donated by . . ."

Have you sometimes wished you could provide flowers for the church, add an element of natural beauty to



mark a special occasion or in memory of a loved one? The Liturgical Art Team of St. Patrick's Liturgy Committee invites you to do just that.

Arrangements have been made with a local florist who, for \$35, will make up a floral arrangement in a vase provided by St. Patrick's. This

new program will start up in the weeks after Easter, when a sign-up sheet will be posted in the church vestibule. Those who wish to participate may select the weekend of their choice and list on the sign-up sheet their name and the occasion or person to be commemorated. Two signers can be accommodated on any weekend. The check for \$35, payable to St. Patrick's Church (with "flowers" on the memo line), should be turned in or sent to the parish office.

Questions? Call Jan Callahan, team facilitator (469-9346).

What is the cure for materialism? Is there a cure?

The Social Action Committee will host a three-part video series focusing on materialism in our society. The series, which begins on Wednesday, Apr. 19, at 7 p.m. in the multipurpose room of the parish center, opens with "Affluenza," Part One, and continues on Apr. 27 with "Affluenza," Part Two. On May 3 the series concludes with "Escape from Affluenza."

The videos focus on the problems of over-consumption, "keeping up with the Joneses," and materialism by using factual information, a good dose of humor, and examples of what people are doing to "cure" this "disease."

Each video presentation will be followed by a discussion of ways to simplify our lives, facilitated by Nancy Dietrich-Rybicki. Nancy has taught "Personal Power" money management classes for the Consumer Credit Union, Urbana Adult Education, and Parkland Live and Learn.

Here's your chance to try Fair Trade coffee

Around the world, coffee and fellowship come together where we share in community. As one of the most heavily traded commodities in the world, coffee can be a direct link between our own community and small farmers and their families in Latin America, Africa, and Asia.



On Sunday, Apr. 2, you can enjoy Fellowship Blend coffee from Equal Exchange, a worker-owned cooperative founded in 1986. Equal Exchange pays a fair price, offers affordable credit enabling small farmers to stay on their land, and supports sustainable agriculture. A booth with information on Fair Trade products and some sample items for purchase will also be available at Coffee Shop.

The Social Action Committee hopes to incorporate Fair Trade coffee into other parish functions in the future. Stop by the information booth and let the committee know your opinion of the coffee.

For information about Equal Exchange and Fair Trade, see www.equalexchange.com.

Finding God in an art museum

You need only visit the Krannert Art Museum on the U of I campus (500 East Peabody Drive; enter from the east on Sixth Street) to know that God can be found in an art museum.

The first little gallery you will see is Sacra Imago: Devotional Art of the Middle Ages. One side has objects of public devotion; the other has objects of private devotion that include a fourteenth-century French diptych [a sort of notebook, formed by the union of two tablets and united by rings or by a hinge] carved in ivory, showing the Coronation of the Virgin Mary on one side and the Crucifixion with Mary and St. John on the other. There are also two Books of Hours used by the laity at home to pray eight times a day as the clergy did.

The public pieces from churches on the gallery's west wall are important treasures. The tempera of St. Catherine of Alexandria was painted by Sieneese Ugolino de Nerio in 1335.

The timeless sadness in St. Catherine's face, accented by the elongated Byzantine styling, would move any churchgoer to prayer. Nearby is a German wood carving made in 1520 for the bottom panel of an altar. It depicts the veil of Veronica held by angels.

Another impressive object is the three-part stained glass window from a thirteenth-century French church illustrating the parable of the Prodigal Son. The thirteenth century was the high point of medieval art when soaring Gothic cathedrals replaced the heavier Romanesque churches. These Gothic stained glass windows and their stories served as Bibles for the poor, most of whom could not read. Colored light filtering into the church through these windows represented goodness, wisdom, and the nature of Christ himself as a means of spiritual awakening.

Now walk into the Bow Gallery. Halfway down this hall you will find Bartoleme Murillo's "Christ after the Flagellation." This magnificent Spanish oil painting captures Christ's powerful resignation to his Passion. It is said that the French poet Baudelaire was deeply dismayed when the Louvre sent this painting to London for auction.

Next enter the heart of the Krannert Museum, the Trees Gallery. On the east wall are several fifteenth-century paintings of the Virgin and Child with various saints. You can study the progression of painting from the brightly colored temperas of the late Middle Ages to the more nuanced oils of the Renaissance.

The Western art galleries aren't the only places to find God. Another time we will explore the African and Asian galleries, where evidence of God also abounds.



With joyful song the choir of "Harmony, Hope, and Healing" witnessed to the power of Christ's love for them before hundreds of parishioners, in concert Saturday evening and also at 5:00, 9:00, and 10:30 parish Masses Feb. 25-26.

St Patrick's Parish

Urbana IL



April 2006



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Because the calendar is prepared in advance, be sure to check the parish bulletin to confirm dates and times of listed events.</p> <p>Deadline for the next issue of <i>In Focus</i> is April 9.</p>						Confirmation Retreat
						1
9am RCIA 9:15am Rel Ed 10:30am Children's Liturgy 6:30pm Jr-Sr Rel Ed Confirmation Retreat 2	7pm Communal Penance, Holy Cross 7pm Pro-Life 7pm Centering Prayer 3	5:30pm Financial Affairs 7pm Communal Penance, St. Patrick's 7pm Baptism Prep 4	9am Moms UIP 10am Guild mtg 5:15pm Children's Choir 5:15pm SVDP 6:30pm Rel Ed, StJ 7pm Communal Penance, St Matt's 7pm RCIA 7pm Choir 5	6:45am Men's Bible Study 7pm Building & Grounds 7pm Choir 6	10:45am Mass, CCNH 5:15pm Stations of the Cross 5:30pm Fish Fry 6:30pm Film Series 7	8:45am-noon Church Spring Cleaning 8
Palm Sunday 9am RCIA 9:15am Rel Ed 10:30am Children's Liturgy 5:30pm Mission Mtg 6:30pm Jr-Sr Rel Ed 9	7pm Centering Prayer 10	6:45pm Social Action 7pm Parish Council Exec. Committee 11	9am Moms UIP 5:15pm Children's Choir 5:15pm SVDP 7pm RCIA 7pm Choir 12	Holy Thursday 7am Morning Prayer 5:45pm First Communion Seder 7:30pm Mass of the Last Supper 13	Good Friday 7am Morning Prayer 3pm Stations of the Cross 7:30pm Veneration of the Cross OFFICE CLOSED AT NOON 14	Holy Saturday 8am Morning Prayer 9am RCIA 7:30pm Easter Vigil Service 15
Easter Sunday Masses: 7:30, 9, 10:30, noon 16	7pm Centering Prayer 17	7pm Liturgy 18	9am Moms UIP 5:15pm Children's Choir 5:15pm SVDP 6:30pm Rel Ed, St. J 19	6:45am Men's Bible Study 12pm Senior Lunch 7pm Parish Council 20	10:30am Mass Clark-Lindsey 10:45am Mass CCNH 21	22
8am-12pm Blood Pressure Screening 2pm First Communion Mass 4pm CTC 6:30pm Confirmation Practice 6:30pm Jr-Sr Rel Ed 23	7pm Centering Prayer 24	25	9am Moms UIP 9:30am Schola 5:15pm Children's Choir 5:15pm SVDP 6:30pm Parish Evening of Reflection 7pm Choir 26	6:45am Men's Bible Study 7pm Communications 7pm Choir 27	10:45am Mass CCNH 28	Parish Council Election 7pm "Catholic Boys" Musical Comedy 29
Parish Council Election 9:15am Rel Ed 30						